

AT YEAR'S END: A CONDENSED REPORT: 1962

C O N T E N T

- I. Job Development and Employment
- II. Education and Youth Incentive
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U R B A N L E A G U E O F E S S E X C O U N T Y  
58 J o n e s S t r e e t , N e w a r k

### THIS REPORT

This report covers the programs, objectives, activities, and achievements of the Urban League of Essex County, for the year 1962

It is perhaps well to point out at the beginning of this report that the rapidly changing socio-economic conditions of the day have made it necessary for the Urban League not only to improve some of its basic techniques, but also to develop many new procedures in order to meet new and more difficult situations.

We should also like to point out that the Urban League of Essex County is a community planning and resource agency. Consequently, its services are primarily for purposes of demonstration and for the development of methods and techniques designed to meet current crucial and critical intergroup problems in our community.

For this reason, therefore, statistics used in this report should be viewed in this light in order that the agency's plans and objectives will not be evaluated purely in terms of quantitative measures.

## AT YEAR'S END 1962: A CONDENSED REPORT

Following the Annual Conference of the National Urban League in Grand Rapids, Michigan in September 1962, the National Urban League adopted a new procedure for the grouping and reporting of the activities of the Urban League movement.

All Urban League activities were grouped into four areas of operation. These areas were (1) Job Development and Employment (2) Health and Welfare (3) Education and Youth Incentives and (4) Housing.

This report, therefore, presents the major activities of the Urban League of Essex County in this new format.

### I. JOB DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

The Job Development and Employment activities of the Urban League are centered around (1) the developing of new job opportunities for Negro workers (2) helping to lessen restrictive employment practices on the part of employers and labor unions, and (3) making first or pilot placements on a demonstration basis.

During the course of the year, our operating records show 467 job applicants registered, 166 job referrals, and 60 job placements.

It should be pointed out, however, that these achievements do not measure the full impact of our job development and employment activities. A substantial number of persons are able to obtain employment through the activities of the agency but whose employment is unrecorded by the agency due to the fact that the worker was not a direct referral from the League.

A cross section of the major business and industrial concerns served by the agency during the course of the year include Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company; Celanese Corporation of America; Emerson Radio; General Precision Company; International Business Machines; P. Lorillard Tobacco Company; Proctor and Gamble; Public Service Electric and Gas Company; and Prudential Life Insurance Company.

Also serviced during the year were the Federal Bureau of Investigation; International Union of Electrical Workers; New Jersey State Department of Labor; U. S. Civil Rights Commission, and The United Automobile Workers of America.

On November 19, the agency conducted its Annual Equal Opportunity Day program, to which some 30 industrial concerns, business establishments, and labor unions sent 125 participants, thus indicating their interest in the Urban League's program to make equal employment opportunity a reality in our area.

## II. EDUCATION AND YOUTH INCENTIVES

At the beginning of the year, the work of the League among the youth of our community was recognized when the Industrial Relations Secretary of the agency was appointed by the Mayor to serve on a committee to make a study and prepare a report on "Out of School Unemployed Youth" in our area.

Also during the year, the Industrial Relations Secretary served as the chairman of a Central Ward Youth Concerns Coordinating Committee, which devoted itself to a study of the problems of Negro youth in Central Newark and sought to develop ways and means to meet and eliminate such problems as were found that affected adversely the development of the full potential of these youth.

On April 28, the League conducted a County-Wide Career Conference at Seton Hall University in South Orange, in which more than 150 students representing delegates from 50 schools in Essex County participated.

A feature of the conference was the awarding of two scholarships on the basis of the best of a 500 word essay on the topic "What the Urban League Means to the Youth of Essex County." Mrs. Tina E. Bohannon, Chairman of the League's Vocational Guidance Committee, was primarily responsible for the securing of the scholarships.

In October, the Executive Director of the agency was appointed by the Mayor of the city to serve on a Youth Expansion Services Committee. The YES will undertake an eight year program to raise the sights and improve the citizenship of underprivileged youth in the community. The program is a cooperative movement on the part of the city and Rutgers University and will be financed mainly by grants of several million dollars from both public and private resources.

More than 500 Essex County youth have been serviced by the League in group counseling and vocational guidance during 1962.

Other services to youth during the year included career conferences in Jersey City and in Trenton, sponsored and financed by local groups but conducted by Urban League of Essex County staff. In each of these cases, however, financial contributions to the work of the ULEC were made by these local groups. In addition, a series of radio programs directed to the problems of youth was carried out by the agency during 1962.

## III. HOUSING

In February of this year, the Housing Committee of the agency, with the Executive Director as consultant, was reorganized and embarked upon a vigorous program to improve the housing conditions of non-white residents in Essex County. To do this job, the Committee divided itself into four sub-committees. These were (1) Fact Finding (2) Education (3) Promotion and (4) Direct Community Services.

Through the activities of the Direct Services sub-committee, a pledge card was prepared and distributed which sought signatures from residents of Essex County, particularly in the suburbs, for a pledge of fair housing practices in the neighborhoods in which they resided.

The primary purpose of this activity was to help build a climate in which all people interested in maintaining a decent home in a decent neighborhood would be welcomed.

Approximately 5,000 such pledge cards are in the process of distribution and returns at the time of this report have been very encouraging.

In addition, a carefully prepared brochure on "Fair Housing Legislation in New Jersey", under the direction of Jeffrey M. Albert, is currently being reviewed by the Fact Finding sub-committee for final approval by the Board of the agency before publication and release.

#### IV. HEALTH AND WELFARE

During the first half of the year, the Urban League of Essex County completed its Home Finding Project, which resulted in developing 250 adoptive and foster care homes for Negro children residing in facilities of private and public institutions and agencies in our area.

In its work with newcomers to the Essex County community, the agency succeeded in settling six such families, among whom was the Louis Boyd family. Mr. Boyd, his wife, and six children were the first of the "reverse freedom riders" to reach the Newark metropolitan area.

In its personal services operations, the League interviewed more than 100 clients who were in need of personal services and referred such clients to the proper agency in the community to deal with their respective problems. Follow-up activities were also carried out in each of these cases.

The Community Services Secretary of the agency, in cooperation with the New Jersey Travellers Aid Society, initiated proposals for a study of the problems of newcomers. These proposals are currently under study by interested groups and will be pursued by the agency during the coming year in an effort to develop concrete and effective plans for dealing with this problem.

In its neighborhood conference program, the League conducted a Central Newark Community Conference designed to help residents in the Central Newark area meet and deal with basic problems of community life in the Central Newark area. Representatives of the major municipal government departments participated in the conference, along with representatives from the various social agencies in the area.

The Community Services Secretary during the course of the year, initiated a study on the need for a family education program and attempted to involve Columbia University in such a project. Additional study is being given this proposal to determine whether it is feasible and practicable as a part of the health and welfare services of the League.

During September and October of the year, the League, under the direction of the Community Services Secretary, assisted in conducting a local voters registration drive.

More than 10,000 copies of a voters registration leaflet, patterned after one prepared by the National Urban League, were printed and distributed during the course of this voter registration campaign.

In cooperation with the Newark Evening News through its Christmas fund drive, the League was able to provide assistance to 30 families during the Christmas holiday season.

Also, in conjunction with the Toy Committee of the Bell Telephone Labs, the League was able to present toys to 175 underprivileged children in the Essex County area.